

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARAE-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01  
NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 EB-03 /042 W  
-----021904Z 096046 /41

P R 021555Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0022  
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO  
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 1759

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PFOR, PA, AR, ENRG, ETRD  
SUBJ: AFTERMATH OF VIDELA VISIT

REF: ASUNCION 1640

1. WHEN I AGAIN RAISED THE PROPOSED IAHRC VISIT TO PARAGUAY WITH DR. CONRADO PAPPALARDO, SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT, AND DR. ROMEO ACOSTA, PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL BANK, AT THE JAPANESE RECEPTION ON APRIL 29, THEY TOLD ME THAT SINCE THE DEPARTURE OF PRESIDENT VIDELA ON APRIL 22, IT HAS BEEN VERY DIFFICULT TO GET PRESIDENT STORESSNER TO FOCUS ON THE IAHRC BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN TOTALLY OBSESSED WITH THE PROBLEM OF CHANGING THE YACIRETA DAM SITE.

2. THEY SAID THAT IT WAS ONLY DURING THE EVENING OF THE LAST FULL DAY OF THE VISIT THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS MADE AWARE THAT ON THE FOLLOWING MORNING AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE SIGNED WHICH WOULD CHANGE THE PROPOSED DAM SITE AND WOULD RESULT IN THE FLOODING OF AN ADDITIONAL 700  
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SQUARE KILOMETERS OF PARAGUAYAN SOIL. WHEN THE PRESIDENT DEMURRED, HE WAS TOLD (DURING THE RECEPTION AT THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY) THAT IN FACT THE PARAGUAYAN YACIRETA DELEGATION HAD ALREADY FORMALLY AGREED TO THIS CHANGE A WEEK PRIOR DURING A MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES. THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN FURIOUS EVER SINCE. HE CALLED A CABINET MEETING THE NEXT MORNING AT 6 A.M.

(APRIL 22), PRIOR TO THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT. THIS MEETING LASTED FOR SEVERAL HOURS, THUS DELAYING THE SIGNING CEREMONY. THE PRESIDENT FINALLY AGREED TO THE CHANGE AFTER A PROMISE FROM MINISTER MARTINEZ DE HOZ THAT ARGENTINA WOULD A) PAY ADEQUATE COMPENSATION TO THE OWNERS OF LAND TO BE FLOODED AND B) ARGENTINA WOULD UNDERTAKE TO FINALLY SETTLE THE BORDER DISPUTE ALONG THE RIO PILCOMAYO IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGUAY'S WISHES. IF THAT HAPPENS PARAGUAY WOULD GAIN ALMOST 800 SQUARE KILOMETERS OF LAND IN THAT AREA AND THIS WOULD MAKE UP FOR THE LOSS OF THE OTHER TERRITORY. THE PRESIDENT IS CONCERNED NOW THAT THE GOA MAY GO BACK ON ITS WORD BECAUSE THERE IS NOTHING IN WRITING ABOUT THE RIO PILCOMAYO BORDER SETTLEMENT AND HE PLANS TO SEND DR. NOGUES OR DR. PAPPALARDO TO ARGENTINA NEXT WEEK TO OBTAIN A FIRM COMMITMENT FROM THE GOA.

3. LOCAL PRESS ANNOUNCED MAY 2 THAT FOREIGN MINISTER NOGUES IS EXPECTED TO TRAVEL TO BUENOS AIRES THIS WEEK. NO REASON WAS GIVEN FOR THE TRIP.  
LANDAU

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009